

In the Claims:

Kindly amend the claims as follows:

1. (currently amended) Rapid coupling device, in particular for use in compressed air lines, wherein the coupling comprises a plug-in and a receiving coupling socket, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the coupling socket body is made from one single piece.

2. (original) Rapid coupling device according to claim 1, wherein the coupling socket is adapted to receive a coupling plug-in and the socket comprises

- a coupling socket body;
- a valve located inside the coupling socket body;
- a valve spring urging the valve into a closed position when not coupled to a coupling plug-in;
- a gasket/seal between the valve and a valve seat arranged in the coupling socket body;
- locking means arranged in the socket for locking a coupling plug-in into secure coupling with the socket;
- a locking release means slidably arranged on the outside of the socket body and influenced by a spring into a locking position.

3. (currently amended) Coupling according to claim 2, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the valves travel in an interior cylindrical sliding surface provided in an interior wall of the socket body is less than 10 mm, preferably less than 5 mm.

4. (currently amended) Coupling according to ~~claims 2 or 3~~ claim 2, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the valve is retained in the socket body by an O-ring.

5. (currently amended) Coupling according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the valve is made from a resilient material and that the diameter of at least a part of the valve is larger than an interior diameter of the socket body.

6. (currently amended) Coupling socket for use in compressed air lines, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the socket comprises locking means for retaining a plug-in device, valve means, connection means to a means for conveying compressed air, wherein the socket body is a single piece.

7. (original) Method for assembling a rapid coupling socket device, wherein all parts are mounted through the coupling opening in the socket body.

8. (currently amended) Method according to claim 7, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the assembly is as follows:

- a) the valve spring is inserted;
- b) the valve is inserted and fitted inside an inner cylindrical sliding surface provided in an interior wall of the socket body and fitted partly inside the valve spring;
- c) a first O-ring is arranged in an inner gasket groove;
- d) a second O-ring is arranged in an outer gasket groove;
- e) a ventilating ring is arranged about the outside of the socket body;

- f) a locking spring is arranged about an outside surface of the socket body and in contact with the ventilating ring;
- g) a ball ring for retaining locking balls is arranged in contact with the locking spring together with at least two locking balls and, optionally, two locking pins;
- h) a ball lock ring and
- i) an outer locking ring encapsulating all items arranged on the outside of the socket body.